

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

MONDAY'S OFFICIAL PRESS BULLETIN (MDP) AND DAILY MADAGASCAR MATIN HEADLINED OLYMPIC STORY: "THE U.S.A. SLOWING DOWN" (LES USA EN PERTE DE VITESSE).

ATTRIBUTED TO AFP/MDP. STORY BEGAN: "THE UNITED STATES IS SUFFERING A DEFEAT THE LIKES OF WHICH IT HAS NEVER KNOWN BEFORE (UNE DEFAITE COMME ILS N'EN ONT ENCORE JAMAIS CONNUE)".

NOTING SOVIET AND GDR SUCCESSES ARTICLE SAID AMERICANS MIGHT NOT EVEN FINISH IN SECOND PLACE. "NEVER WOULD ANYONE HAVE EXPECTED THAT UNCLE SAM (WOULD) LET ITSELF BE DOMINATED SO EASILY IN THE BATTLE OF MEDALS".

ARTICLE CONTINUED THAT ONE HAD EXPECTED A U.S. ATTEMPT AT AVENGING ITS MONTREAL LOSSES: THE U.S. "(HAD) APPEARED TO HAVE POLISHED UP ITS ARMOR TO RECONQUER FIRST PLACE, AS IN MEXICO". HOWEVER, STORY CLAIMED, SOVIETS APPEAR IN A FAVORABLE POSITION AND THEY NOW TALK OF "THE GRAND DEFEAT OF AMERICAN SPORT".

CITING U.S. LOSSES IN SWIMMING, 100 METERS AND SHOT PUT, ARTICLE SAID: EAST GERMANS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN, OCCUPY "THE OBVIOUS ROLE OF SOVIET ACCOMPLICES IN KNOCKING DOWN THE AMERICAN GIANT".

UNDER HEADLINE "L'OLYMPISME ET LES AFRICAINS" MADAGASCAR MATIN REHASHED ARGUMENTS PRO AND CON OF AFRICAN BOYCOTT, AND LOOKED INTO FUTURE POSSIBILITIES OF SEPARATE INTERNATIONAL AND

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AFRICAN GAMES. IF NOTHING ELSE, ARTICLE SAID "THE AFRICAN

COUNTRIES STILL OBTAINED A VICTORY BY SECURING.... THE EXCLUSION OF SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ATHLETICS".

THE PAPER ALSO REPORTED BRIEFLY ON FORD'S CERTAINTY TO GET PARTY NOMINATION. ALSO CARRIED VIKING REPORT, ALONG WITH THREE-COLUMN PHOTO OF MARS, HEADLINED "A CLOUD OVER MARS".

MEANWHILE, SATURDAY'S MAD. MATIN CARRIED HEADLINE "UNIFICATION OF THE TWO KOREAS: KISSINGER AGREED". STORY REPORTED BRIEFLY ON SEATTLE SPEECH, NOTING KISSINGER AGREEMENT TO MEET OUTSIDE NEW YORK, IF NECESSARY.

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